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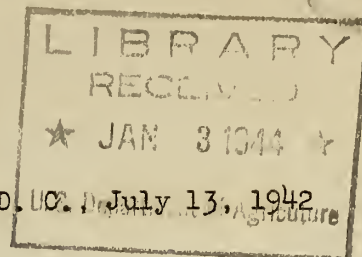
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING ADMINISTRATION



Special Release

Washington, D. C. July 13, 1942

HAY AND PASTURE REPORT.

All signs point to a 100 million ton hay crop in 1942--2 million more than the previous record of some 98 million tons made back in 1916, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. Although the acreage being cut this year is not particularly large, the growth generally has been exceptionally good. There has been a little frost damage to alfalfa in the West, there are a few dry spots, and Missouri River floods have ruined a considerable acreage of hay, but on the whole there is an abundant crop. Hay likely will be saved from very large acreages of peanuts grown principally for oil in the South. Although there are large increases in the acreage of soybeans little of this increased acreage is likely to be used for hay. Quality of first cuttings of hay has probably been lowered more than usual by weeds and by rain damage during curing.

The indicated acreage of tame hay of all kinds to be cut in 1942 is 59,949,000 acres or 1.2 percent more than in 1941 and 6.9 percent more than the 10-year average. Smaller than average acreages are indicated in the northern Great Plains and the Northwest and also in the northeastern part of the country as far west as Michigan and Indiana. Acreages larger than average and also larger than in 1941 are indicated in all States bordering on the Mississippi River and in all States in the Cotton Belt. The indicated production of all kinds of tame hay in 1942 is 88,380,000 tons -- an all time record. The 1942 crop is above the 10-year average in all but half a dozen States and above the 1941 crop in Montana, California, Arizona and most of the important Eastern and Central States except North Dakota, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Mississippi.

The acreage of alfalfa hay is larger than last year in most States; for the U. S. 15,493,000 acres compared with 14,929,000 acres in 1941. With an indicated yield of 2.23 tons per acre, production is expected to be 34,485,000 tons which would be 2 million tons more than in 1941 and more than 9 million tons more than the 10-year average.

The acreage of clover and timothy hay is less than average in all of the more important States except Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. However, the 19,207,000 acres for harvest in 1942 is nearly the same as last year and, with better yields per acre, production is expected to be about 26,611,000 tons or 15 percent more than in 1941.

With excellent growing weather in the important wild hay States, there is opportunity to harvest large quantities of this kind. Present indications are that 12,761,000 acres and about 12,305,000 tons of wild hay will be harvested compared with 12,661,000 acres and 11,749,000 tons harvested in 1941.

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Pastures for the country as a whole on July 1 were in the best condition for the date since 1927. Moderate temperatures and rather general rains during June contributed greatly to the good growth of pastures in most sections of the Nation. The condition of farm pastures on July 1 averaged 91 percent of normal, compared with 83 percent on July 1 last year and 72 percent for the July 1, 1930-39 average.

Several limited areas of the country, however, showed a low July 1 pasture condition due to a serious shortage of moisture. In several small sections along the Atlantic Seaboard, particularly from southern New Jersey to the northeastern tip of North Carolina, where close cropping and insufficient rainfall prevailed, pastures on July 1 were quite poor. Pastures continued poor also in northeastern Mississippi, central Tennessee, and in northwestern Alabama where severe drought was in evidence. Although poor conditions exist in other scattered areas throughout the Southeastern States east of the Mississippi River, pastures there made considerable improvement during June.

In the West, pastures and ranges were furnishing excellent feed except in the Southwest. The dry area, which on June 1 extended along the Mexican border from southern Texas to southeastern Arizona, spread over most of New Mexico, all of Arizona, and much of the southern part of Utah. In southwest Texas, range and pasture conditions declined during June, but were benefited by rains since the first of July. Pastures in the North Central States on July 1 were in excellent condition and prospects for sufficient summer pasture feed in the important dairy States of this section are far better than usual. Despite a slight decline during June, the condition of pastures in the North Atlantic States was nearly 40 percent better than a year ago.

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